

REMARKS

The only issue outstanding in the Office Action mailed May 31, 2006, is the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 of claims 13-15, and related objections of claims 9-11 and 1-15. All of these issues relate to the international format of the claims. Accordingly, the claims have been reformatted as more usual for U.S. practice. It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the above issues are moot. It is noted that the scope of the claims, are both literally and for purposes of the doctrine of equivalents, has not been changed by the foregoing amendments, which do not change the scope of the claims but merely reformat the claims for U.S. practice by making grammatical and typographical changes.

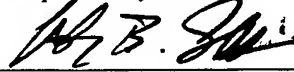
It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Passage to issue is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

It is argued, on page 2 of the Office Action, that the Information Disclosure Statement is not in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, as a result of "missing" copies of references. In fact, the Information Disclosure Statement merely formalizes the search report provided by the IB. As a result, it is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement thus was provided simply as a convenience to the Examiner so as to enable listing of the references cited by the IB on the face of the present patent. However, to expedite prosecution, copies of the two references noted by the Examiner are provided herewith, along with an additional Form 1449 listing these references. Initial and return of this form is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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